

What is claimed is:

1. A system employed by a first application for supporting concurrent operation of a plurality of network compatible applications, comprising:

5 an entitlement processor for authorizing user access to said first application in response to validation of user identification information; and

a communication processor for communicating a session initiation request to a managing application to initiate generation of a session identifier particular to a user initiated session and for use by a plurality of concurrently  
10 operating applications to uniquely identify said user initiated session in response to validation of user identification information.

2. A system according to claim 1, wherein

15 said session initiation request to said managing application also initiates generation of an encryption key particular to said user initiated session for use by said first application.

3. A system according to claim 2, wherein

20 said encryption key is for common use by said plurality of concurrently operating applications in encrypting data associated with a personal record.

4. A system according to claim 1, wherein

25 said communication processor also communicates additional parameters to said managing application for storage, said additional parameters including one or more of, (a) an authentication service identifier, (b) a language identifier, (c) a userid, (d) a URL for use in acquiring a web page providing a logon menu to support user initiation of another session, (e) a URL to be contacted upon a predetermined event and (f) an identification of a type of said predetermined event.

5. A system according to claim 1, including

30 an input processor for receiving said session identifier and an associated encryption key from said managing application.

6. A system according to claim 5, including

35 an encryption processor for use in encrypting data associated with a personal record.

7. A system employed by a managing application for supporting concurrent operation of a plurality of network compatible applications, comprising:

an input processor for receiving from a first application a session initiation request to initiate generation of a session identifier;

a session identifier generator for generating a session identifier particular to a user initiated session and for use by a plurality of concurrently operating applications to uniquely identify said user initiated session; and

a communication processor for,

communicating said session identifier to said first application

and

communicating said session identifier to another application of said plurality of concurrently operating applications in response to a request to receive said generated session identifier.

8. A system according to claim 7, including

an encryption key generator for substantially randomly generating an encryption key particular to said user initiated session, in response to said session initiation request.

9. A system according to claim , wherein

said encryption key is for common use by said plurality of concurrently operating applications in encrypting data associated with a personal record.

10. A system according to claim 7, wherein

said communication processor includes said generated session identifier in different types of command messages communicated to applications of said plurality of concurrently operating applications.

11. A system supporting concurrent operation of a plurality of Internet compatible applications, comprising:

5 a browser application providing a user interface display permitting user entry of identification information and commands for a plurality of Internet compatible applications and for providing user identification information to a first application for validation; and

10 a managing application for generating a session identifier particular to a user initiated session in response to receiving a session initiation request from a first application and for communicating said session identifier to said first application.

12. A system according to claim 11, wherein

15 said managing application also communicates to said first application data items including one or more of, (a) a key to be used in encrypting and decrypting a session identifier conveyed in URL data, (b) an indicator identifying whether or not a session initiation request is successful.

13. A system according to claim 11, wherein said managing application includes

20 an encryption key generator for substantially randomly generating an encryption key particular to said user initiated session, in response to said session initiation request.

14. A system according to claim 13, wherein

25 said encryption key is for common use by said plurality of concurrently operating applications in encrypting data associated with a personal record.

15. A system according to claim 11, wherein

30 said managing application includes said generated session identifier in different types of command messages communicated to applications of said plurality of concurrently operating applications.

16. A method employed by a first application operating in a system supporting concurrent operation of a plurality of Internet compatible applications, said method comprising the steps of:

authorizing user access to said first application in response to validation of user identification information; and

communicating a session initiation request to a managing application to initiate generation of a session identifier particular to a user initiated session in response to validation of user identification information.

17. A method employed by a managing application for supporting concurrent operation of a plurality of network compatible applications, comprising the steps of:

receiving from a first application a session initiation request to initiate generation of a session identifier;

generating a session identifier particular to a user initiated session and for use by a plurality of concurrently operating applications to uniquely identify said user initiated session; and

communicating said session identifier to said first application and to another application of said plurality of concurrently operating applications in response to a request to receive said generated session identifier.